

State unveils new Web site for contracts

Markell: Businesses to benefit

By GINGER GIBSON • The News Journal • June 5, 2009

DOVER -- All contracts available with Delaware government now will be listed in a central location on the state's Web site, part of Gov. Jack Markell's push to make it easier for companies to work in the state.

The site will compile all public bids and requests for proposals into one site that will be sortable and searchable by agency, description and deadline.

Markell said he sees this as a win-win option because the state will be able to engage more vendors and, he hopes, get better prices. Meanwhile businesses will be able to find contracts easily and spend less time trying to sort through all of the state's various agency Web sites.

"This is a new suite of online tools that will help Delaware businesses do business with Delaware," Markell said.

By August the state also plans to set up an e-mail notification system, Markell said. The system, similar to the one that notifies parents if their children's schools are closed due to snow, will allow people to pick contracts based on types and receive an e-mail when one is posted.

Alan Levin, director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, said business owners often tell him that an easier system would allow them to conduct business better.

Levin described the Web site, part of the Office of Management and Budget, as an economic development initiative.

Markell said the site will include contracts with the state's colleges and universities and already features a request from Delaware State University.

Ann Visalli, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said the site will include school district contracts if the districts choose to participate in the site.

Markell said by compiling available contracts in one place, people will not have to sort through the various sites.

Devona Williams, the owner of a consulting company, said as someone who has done business with the state since 1968, she sees the change as one that will help many businesses.

"This is one-stop shopping," Williams said. "It opens opportunities for people who may not have been able to access the old system and makes it a lot easier."

ON THE WEB

<http://bids.delaware.gov>